

Chicago, IL (February 24, 2012) -Today U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) joined women's health advocates and religious groups to speak out for women's access to contraception and in support of a final rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on preventive health services.

On February 10, the Obama Administration announced a final rule requiring employers to provide insurance coverage for the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives without charging a co-pay, co-insurance, or a deductible. The rule exempts 335,000 churches, mosques and synagogues. The policy also ensures that if a woman works for a religious-affiliated employer such as a hospital or university with objections to providing contraceptive services, the woman's insurance company will be required to directly offer her contraceptive care free of charge.

Speakers in support of the policy at the event held at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple included Carol Brite of Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Rev. Larry Greenfield of Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Dr. Tara Kumaraswami of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, Lorie Chaiten, Director of ACLU of Illinois Reproductive Rights Project, and Sara Hutchinson, Domestic Program Director of Catholics for Choice.

"Make no mistake, there is a war on women, and we have to fight back," said **Rep. Mike Quigley**. "Last week, I walked out of a Congressional hearing on birth control without a single woman on the witness panel. Hours later, I turned on the TV to hear someone suggest contraception was as simple as women putting aspirin between their knees. These horrifying attacks on birth control are only the most recent in a larger series of attacks on women's health. We've seen choice opponents attempt to cut family planning funding, prevent a hospital from saving a woman's life on moral grounds, and even redefine rape. Enough is enough."



at the hearing, religious groups opposed the bill, saying it would undermine the religious freedom of faith-based organizations and the rights of women to control their own bodies.

